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To: Primary Examiner Roland G. Foster Art Unit: 2645 United States Patent and Trademark Office	From: Nora M. Tocups RE: Serial No. 09/513,005 Atty No. 99018
Fax: 703.872.9306	Date: May 3, 2004

Total pages, including cover: 2

Please deliver to Primary Patent Examiner Roland Foster

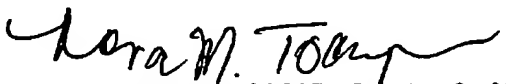
Dear Examiner Foster:

This facsimile relates to the voicemail I left you on May 2, 2004 regarding Serial No. 09/513,005. I would appreciate your consideration of these materials and I look forward to speaking with you shortly. Hopefully, Friday, May 7th at 1:00 p.m. is a convenient time. Thank you.

Nora M. Tocups

I hereby certify that the correspondence listed below is being transmitted via facsimile transmission to **Primary Patent Examiner Foster** of the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 703.872.9306 on May 3, 2004.

- Fax Cover Sheet
- After Final Response for Discussion Purposes Only


Nora M. Tocups, Reg. 35,717 - On May 3, 2004

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of BEDINGFIELD, *ET AL.*)
Serial No.: 09/513,005) Art Unit: 2645
Filed: February 25th, 2000) Examiner: Foster
For: Region-Wide Messaging System and Methods) Docket No. 99018
Including Validation of Transactions)

AFTER-FINAL RESPONSE – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

The undersigned proposes a telephone interview on Friday, May 7th at 1:00 p.m. to discuss how to best further prosecution of this application, and proposes to discuss a principal distinction between the cited reference, *Bartholemew et al.*, U. S. Patent No. 5,812,639, and the claimed subject matter as summarized below.

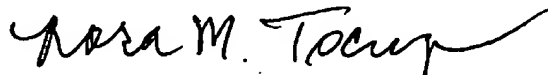
The claims relate to messaging transactions between voice mail servers (also referred to as messaging servers or voice mail systems). Messages may be exchanged between mailboxes, but the actions of the claims relate to the voice mail servers that host the mailboxes.

For example, Claim 13 identifies a first and a second voice mail server, and determines whether a message may be transferred between the first and the second voice mail server. The determination is based on the preceding action of identification of the first and the second voice mail server.

In contrast, *Bartholemew* relates to mailboxes. *Bartholemew* checks whether a caller is authorized to send a message to the recipient's mailbox. Then *Bartholemew* identifies the recipient's mailbox. The mailboxes of *Bartholemew* do not read on the voice mail servers of the claims, and the actions of *Bartholemew* do not read on the actions of Claim 13.

The claims relate to elements and actions that facilitate the communication between voice mail servers that may be operated by different service providers and/or in different geographic regions. *Bartholemew* operates generally in a homogeneous network that does not address and does not need to address the problems solved by the claimed subject matter.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nora M. Tocups, Reg. 35,717

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